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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

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## PLEASE SUPPORT: Graduate Assistant Agreement

### **NO Impact on State Budget**

**This is a financially-modest agreement that will have NO impact on the State allocations to UConn or the CT State budget.**

**About 40% of GA's are funded by external grants (grants that GA's help bring to UConn) and foundation revenues, with the University funding the remaining GA's with tuition and fee revenues.**

An overwhelming majority of GAs and the UConn Board of Trustees ratified the agreement.

For an average stipend of \$25,000 per year, plus tuition and other modest benefits, 2200 UConn Graduate Assistants (GAs) provide core teaching services that sustain excellence and access to the state's flagship university. GAs also help drive innovative research that attracts critical investment in the state economy. GAs were critical to maintain University teaching and research throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As UConn competes nationally and globally to attract the most talented and promising researchers and teachers, this agreement makes reasonable improvements to GA pay and benefits that represent an investment in UConn's ability to sustain its mission of accessibility, affordability, inclusiveness, and excellence.

## **THIS AGREEMENT**

- **Maintains affordable, quality health insurance for GAs and their families** through the Connecticut Partnership plan that continues to save UConn hundreds of thousands of dollars since 2015.
- **Continues reasonable improvements to compensations** that ensure UConn's ability to recruit the best and brightest
- **Promotes a more inclusive academic workforce:** new provisions establishing protections from workplace bullying and power-based harassment help address barriers to all GAs entering the long term academic workforce

## **SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE AND ACCESS AT UCONN**

While spending five to seven years pursuing a PhD in fields ranging from Civil and Chemical Engineering and Computer Science, to Physics, and the Social Sciences, GAs provide critical service. The agreement strengthens GA rights in other areas, including *enhanced rights for international student GAs; a commitment to recognizing the celebration of diverse holidays; and clearer onboarding resources*. These improvements will enhance GA's ability to work toward achieving UConn's mission of teaching and research excellence.

- **GAs helped generate \$337 million in research revenue for UConn and the state economy last fiscal year.** GAs' research helps attract over \$377 million per year in grants and contracts from federal agencies like NASA, the Pentagon, NSF and NIH, as

well as from state, local and private sources. UConn's research efforts contribute \$19.7 million in state and local tax revenue and support 2,149 jobs.

- **GAs make affordable, quality education possible for 20,000 children of CT families.** Nearly 1400 Teaching Assistants are lead instructors for hundreds of courses and discussion and lab sections that provide critical face-to-face interaction for 20,000 undergraduates who receive a quality, affordable education each year.
- **GAs enhance UConn and CT as hubs of innovation.** More than 800 Research Assistants conduct a significant portion of day-to-day experimental work in STEM fields that drives the University's continually-growing reputation in scientific innovation.